

FEB 23 2004

003

OFFICIAL

Attorney Docket No. MP/177

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Bauman et al.  
Appl. No. : 10/666,204  
Filed : September 17, 2003  
Title : CIRCULAR STAPLER BUTTRESS

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile  
transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office on February 19,  
2004.

  
Melanee Williams

Group AU : 3731

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

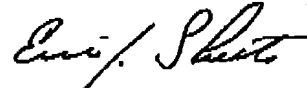
**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, information relating to the above-identified application is hereby disclosed. Inclusion of information in this statement is not to be construed as an admission that this information is material as that term is defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b). Copies of each of the non-patent and foreign patent references listed on the attached Form PTO 1449 are enclosed herewith.

In accordance with § 1.97(b), since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed either within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of the above-identified application as set forth in §1.491, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified application, no additional fee is required.

Respectfully Submitted,



Eric J. Sheets  
Reg. No. 30,326  
W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc.  
551 Paper Mill Road  
P.O. Box 9206  
Newark, DE 19714-9206  
(928) 864-4015

Date: 19 Feb 2004

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b>  <b>IN AN APPLICATION</b>  <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>				Docket Number MP/177		Serial Number 10/666,204	
				Applicant(s) Bauman et al.			
				Filing Date September 17, 2003		Group Art Unit 3731	
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
	3953566	4/27/76	Gore	264	288		
	4592354	6/3/86	Rothfuss	128	305		
	4665917	5/19/87	Clanton et al.	128	334		
	5104025	4/14/92	Main et al.	227	175		
	5222963	6/29/93	Brinkerhoff et al.	606	153		
	5250058	10/5/93	Miller et al.	606	154		
	5263629	11/23/93	Trumbull et al.	227	181		
	5346501	9/13/94	Regula et al.	606	151		
	5468253	11/21/95	Bezwada et al.	606	230		
	5713920	2/3/98	Bezwada et al.	606	230		
	5752965	5/19/98	Francis et al.	606	151		
	5908427	6/1/99	McKean et al.	606	139		
	5964774	10/12/99	McKean et al.	606	151		
	6165217	12/26/00	Hayes	623	11.11		
	6309423	10/30/01	Hayes	623	23.75		
	6325810	12/4/01	Hamilton et al.	606	151		
	6503257	1/7/03	Grant et al.	606	151		
	6592597	7/15/03	Grant et al.	606	151		
	6638285	10/28/03	Gabbay	606	151		
	6656193	12/2/03	Grant et al.	606	151		
	2003/0183671	10/2/03	Mooradian et al.	227	175.1		
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							

Form PTO-A820 (also PTO 1449)

Patent and Trademark Office \* U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
SHEET 1 of 1